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E-mail: [lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)

# Muscogee Nation News

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 14  
Okmulgee, OK  
74447

Volume 33, Issue 2

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

February 2004, 12 Pages

## Five Civilized Tribes support legislation authorizing Indian tribes to take control of housing authorities

OKLAHOMA CITY — The State of Oklahoma Second Session of the 49th Legislature has introduced an act authorizing certain Indian tribes to take control of certain housing authorities.

“We contacted dozens and dozens of representatives, some came down last week and they support this legislation,” stated Chief Ellis. “I think it’s time the tribe took over all tribal business.”

Language stated within the act gives the Five Civilized Tribes power to undertake the management and control of the state housing authority created for the tribe. A tribe can exercise this power by adopting a resolution to begin managing and controlling the existing state agency Indian housing authority.

The resolution of the governing council of the tribe exercising its power to undertake the management of the Indian housing authority must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State for the State of Oklahoma and in the office of the county clerk in which the state agency Indian housing authority created for that tribe owns or leases real property of any interest therein

Upon filing of such a resolution with the office of the Secretary of State, the management and control of the state agency Indian Housing authority, together with ownership of all assets and liabilities of the housing authority, shall transfer to the Indian tribe and the state agency Indian Housing Authority created for the tribe shall cease to exist.

According to Chief Ellis, the bill had been introduced in 2000. However, the smaller tribes lobbied against the legislation and it was tabled. Ellis initiated talks to have the bill pulled off of the table and reentered.

“The Lawyer who writes the bills for the House of Representatives asked me what was needed in this bill,” stated Ellis. “I asked him to omit the smaller tribes and only include the five civilized tribes. I asked the five civilized tribes and they all agreed.”

## Chief Ellis gives state of the nation address



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis gave his State of the Nation Address at the quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council in January. Chief Ellis spoke on the tribe’s present financial stability and future growth potential.

“Our accounting department system has always received the highest award from the federal government,” stated Ellis. “This is the 12th year for us to receive this award. We were the first nation in the United States to receive this award.”

Chief Ellis spoke about the financial growth of Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE), a tribal 8(a) company. “MNBE has a contract with Altus AFB for \$25 million over a 6-year period,” said Ellis. “Presently they are repairing and replacing the roof and air conditioning of the existing casino. They will also be working on the \$1million sprung building in Tulsa. It is time the Muscogee (Creek) Nation should have our own construction company. We should be doing our own work, instead of paying out side companies to do our work. We need to circulate money within our tribe.”

*See pages 6 & 7 for Chief Ellis’ entire State of the Nation Address.*

## Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise attends RES 2004

LAS VEGAS — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise attended the 18th Annual National Reservation Economic Summit and American Indian Business Trade Fair. MNBE representatives were able to interact with federal contracting officers, CEO’s and other prominent business men and women from around the country.

The focus of RES 2004 is to increase the economic growth of Native American tribes and businesses. Companies such as Boeing, Northrup Grumman and Lockheed Martin sponsored the event.

MNBE proudly displayed their three divisions which consist of General Construction Services, Infor-

mation Technology and the newest division, Fire and Security. Currently, the business enterprise has ongoing projects at Altus Air Force Base, the Tulsa Casino and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex.

The vision of MNBE is to strengthen the Muscogee (Creek) Nation by providing economic growth and employment. With the addition of ten new employees in MNBE Construction and two additions in the Fire and Security Group, MNBE is doing just that.

“The opportunities we seek today will provide a strong future for the Muscogee Nation,” stated John Pritchard, MNBE Fire and Security Manager.



John Pritchard, left, discusses potential contracts with Edwin Beussink, U.S. Air Force Small Business.



## Office of the Principal Chief...

by A.D. Ellis

Hello friends and fellow Creeks. This is my first Muscogee Nation News article as Principal Chief so I will try to be as informative as possible. I was sworn in as Chief before daylight January 5th. I immediately left for Washington D.C. to help the MNBE secure a large Marine Corp Government Contract.

January has been a very busy month with long hours and important decisions to be made. I have found that the title of 'Principal Chief Muscogee Nation' opens many doors access in a decision-making people. This I will use for the betterment of our Creek citizens. I have a sign in my office that says, "*Show me a man who tries to satisfy everyone and I'll show you a failure*". This is so true.

Last week at a National Council meeting all my appointed directors and deputy directors were confirmed by the Council and by the second week of February all departments will be staffed for full operation. Thank you, to my cabinet people for accepting my appointment to these positions.

Last night, former National Indian Gaming Commis-



sioner, Monte Deere (appointed by President Clinton), was named the new Attorney General for our nation.

March 25th will be our first 'Town Hall Meeting' at the Eufaula Community Center at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. Accompanying our group will be representatives from Social Services, Higher Education, Citizenship Board, Realty and others to answer your questions and take notes or applications.

I would hope that Housing and Health might take part as well. I feel that our tribal government is ready to vote in a bipartisan fashion and move the nation forward.

My congratulations to our new National Council Representatives and I pledge to create an administration whose only purpose is making this a better nation for all citizens.

A new identification system is being installed to identify all employees with an I.D. badge at work. This will be used to clock in and out and also to make sure employees are paid for all work performed and to guarantee the nation gets what we pay for. There are many new programs in the near future and all are designed to modernize our system.

I want to thank all those who have offered prayers and a work of encouragement to this administration and tribal leaders. It is an honor and privilege to be in this position and I'll never take it other than seriously to treat everyone equally and fairly.

### Man welcomed by Creek people

#### Editor:

In July 2003, I was diagnosed with a bacterial infection of the heart. That news was compounded by a recent breakup

of a nine year relationship. So I decided to start a new life somewhere else, other than my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. I packed my dog, Simba and myself into the truck and headed for Oklahoma. When I got here, I soon discov-

## Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Henks Ce vm estvlke. I feel that the Inauguration was a great success and there was a good turnout of our citizens. I want to thank all of you who came. I'm sorry that I didn't get to shake all of your hands.

This is the fourth week of our new administration and we have been meeting with most of the offices here at the complex. I know everyone is anxious to get things going and now that the Director's of each program have been confirmed, I feel that we can see to your needs in a more expeditious manner.

Chief Ellis has given me the responsibility of answering citizen complaints. Right now, I'm about four days behind on my calls that have come in. I will answer each call, don't think I have forgotten about you.

Mr. Ellis has also appointed me to serve on several boards and each one are of great importance to our Nation. Although it's February, the Festival Committee has already begun its work on planning.

I do intend to visit each community and fellowship



with you. I also have a personal agenda to visit with each church within the Nation. When the season comes, I will also visit with the Tribal Towns. My etlww is Arpekka. I have also been meeting with other agencies under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation such as Housing and Health.

This first week in February has taken a toll on the Executive Office. As you may know, a dear minister and pastor of Arpekka Baptist, John Lowe, passed away recently and his daughter Rachel is working for our office. The Chief's secretary, Melissa Napier, came down with a real bad cold and I was hospitalized. Rachel will be back to work soon and I ask that your prayers be for the Lowe family. I'm getting back on track with my diabetes and all is working well. Melissa is back at her post.

I've also been in attendance at various wake services and funerals for our citizens. It's always an honor for me to sing our native hymns and to offer comfort to those who have suffered a loss.

Chief Ellis informed me that we will be having our first Town Hall meeting in Eufaula on March 25<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to meeting with you and hopefully, we can resolve some of your problems. Hvtvm Ce Hecares. Mvto.

ered that work was not as easy to come by as I was accustomed to and so a struggle for steady income began. I was soon introduced to a little Creek Indian Church in Coweta called Davis Chapel. It was at Davis Chapel that I was introduced to the people of Indian descent; these folks were mostly senior citizens and took their church very seriously. I thought to myself, that I must be the only person here that is not of Indian descent. It made me somewhat nervous. But it didn't matter to the Creek people. They accepted me just fine. I had never felt so comfortable in church before but Davis Chapel just made me feel at peace.

I thought the Creek hymns sounded so sweet to my ears; even though I didn't know what they were singing about. Almost right away Edna Sarti decided she would teach me to understand and read some of those hymns. After church the Creek ladies always had a wonderful meal prepared so you never left church hungry. Over time I began to forge friendships with some of these folks. I would stop over by Heddie Dearson and Pat Sardi's for coffee and some of Sue Mills homemade apple pie. When work got slow it was these people who came to my rescue with odd jobs here and there. I guess what I'm trying to say is thank you to the Creek people for being so kind to me and accepting me into their community. You are a very humble, wonderful people and it has been an honor for me to have you as my friends.

Chuck Freeling, New Orleans, Louisiana

## Muscogee Nation News

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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Lucas Taylor, managing editor  
Denise Jacobs, editorial assistant  
Gerald Wofford, photography/writer  
Ruth Bible, page layout  
Jennifer Taryole, circulation

# Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the November 22, regular session.

## November 22, regular session

Absent were: Dave **Lewis**, Okmulgee District; **Sandra Peters**, Okmulgee District; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce District; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptce District; **Cherrah Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Ronald Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; and **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner District.

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

veto message:

- approved (16-7-0) to veto TR 03-098, approving the selection of contractors for project 51-80, Turnkey new construction;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Muskogee; **Jackson**, Okfuskee; **Almerigi**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce;

In order of business the Council:

- postponed (22-0-0) TR 03-081, approving the "Standard form of agreement between owner and design/builder" and "modification to the standard form of agreement between owner and design/builder, part 2 agreement" between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the SGS, LLC;

- approved (22-0-0) TR 03-101, calling for the organization of a new constitution amendment committee;

- died in council (20-1-1) TR 03-102, confirming the nomination of **Kennan Phillips** to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election board;

voting no were: **Fields**, Tukvptce;

abstain were: **Pickering**, McIntosh;

- approved (22-0-0) TR 03-106, authorizing the Principal Chief to enter into a financing agreement with Bank One to fund the purchase of property in Tulsa County;

- postponed (22-0-0) NCA 03-145, revising the FY 2001 Indian Housing plan as approved by NCA 01-90 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the FY 2001 Indian Housing Plan) and as revised by NCA 03-061;

- approved (20-2-0) NCA 03-159, amending NCA 93-55 (an ordinance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to negotiate, enter into and sign the self-governance compact and annual fund-

ing agreement) to include the Indian Health Service (IHS) annual funding agreement and both annual funding agreements thereafter;

voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Peters**, Okmulgee;

representative **Nichols** out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (21-0-0) NCA 03-206, amending NCA 01-78 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing a constitution amendment committee and appropriating funds for payment of committee expenses and mileage reimbursements for citizens committee members)

representative **Pickering** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- returned to committee (21-0-0) NCA 03-209, amending NCA 03-171 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2004 and providing for appropriations);

representative **Pickering** was out of seat at time of casting of

vote;

- approved (21-0-0) NCA 03-210, appropriating a COPS tribal resources grant match and authorizing the expenditure of the COPS tribal resources grant program equipment award for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation lighthouse police department;

- approved (21-0-1) NCA 03-216, appropriating funds for the newly-elected officials in "inauguration 2004" ceremonies;

abstain were: **Fields**, Tukvptce;

- return to committee (13-9-0) NCA 03-217, authorizing a special appropriation to **Geri Wisner Foley** a Muscogee (Creek) citizen to represent as an ambassador for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the United Nations in working on the rights of Indigenous peoples;

voting no were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Yahola**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 03-219, authorizing a special appropriation for the mound building renovation project;

- approved (20-1-1) NCA 03-224, authorizing a special appropriation to the office of the Principal Chief for the establishment of the tribe's own web service;

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

abstain were: **Fields**, Tukvptce;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 03-225, appropriating

funds for the payment of interest on a loan with bank one for the purchase of property in Tulsa County;

## Dec. 8 extraordinary session

absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Muskogee; **Jackson**, Okfuskee; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Almerigi**, Okmulgee; **Peters**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

representatives **Warrington** and **Parish** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- die in committee (16-0-0) TR 03-081, approving the "Standard form of agreement between owner and design/builder" and "modification to the standard form of agreement between owner and design/builder, part 2 agreement" between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the SGS, LLC;

- return to committee (17-1-0) TR 03-107, approving and adopting the procurement policy for the expending of housing and urban development (HUD) funding;

voting no were: **Lewis**, Okmulgee;

## Dec. 16, special session

absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Muskogee; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Almerigi**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (15-0-0) NCA 03-247, authorizing a special appropriation to certain Muscogee (Creek) families for emergency assistance;

## Dec. 18, special session

absent were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Muskogee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Almerigi**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; and **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (11-2-0) TR 03-107, approving and adopting the procurement policy for the expending of housing and urban development (HUD) funding;

representative **Johnson** was out of seat at time of casting of vote.

- approved as amended (10-2-1) TR 03-097, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a development agreement and a management agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and moon creek holding corporation, a subsidiary of Nevada Gold & casino, Inc.

voting no were: **Cleghorn**, Tulsa and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

abstain were: **Jackson**, Okfuskee.





## Births

Alexandra Contreras

OKMULGEE — Alexandra Contreras was born Oct. 18 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to Tywanna Bigpond and Carlos Contreras.

She weighed 7 lbs and 6 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Kogee Bigpond of Sapulpa and Kenneth Billiot of Coweta.

Paternal grandparents are Maureen and Ethan Bigpond of Okmulgee.



Contreras

## J-Lyn Rochelle Culv Lowe

TULSA — J-Lyn Rochelle Culv Lowe was born Dec. 17 at St. Francis Hospital to Vincent and Heather Lowe.

She weighed 7 lbs and 12 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are JoEllen Frank of Glenpool and John and Joyce Ballard of Welch.

Paternal grandparents are Rusty and Gloria Lowe of Catoosa.

Maternal great grandparents are: the late Rev. Newman Frank Sr. and Louvina Chalakee Frank of Coweta; the late Oleta Ballard of Quapaw; and the late Bill Ballard of Seneca, MO.

Paternal great grandparents are the late Joseph Factor and Betsy Powell Factor of Okmulgee and the late Andrew Lowe of Catoosa and Nora Roberts of Nuyaka.



Lowe

Faith Michaela Russell

TULSA — Faith Michaela Russell was born Jan. 17 at St. Francis Hospital to Michael and Tammy Bigpond Russell.

She weighed 7 lbs. and 3 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Rev. Negiel and Jan Bigpond of Liberty Mounds.

Paternal grandparents are Lyle and Ester Russell of Albuquerque, NM.



Russell

Eli Wayne Whitehead

CLAREMORE — Eli Wayne Whitehead was born on Dec. 31 at Claremore to Chessa Tieyah and Orlando Whitehead of Kellyville.

Maternal grandparents are Chester Tieyah and Debbie Tieyah of Lawton.

Paternal grandparents are Sharon and Steve Whitehead of Sapulpa.

Great grandparents are Carolyn and Paul Herod of Kiefer.

Eli has one sister, Sage.



Whitehead

## Birthdays

Bigpond celebrates with Incredible Hulk theme

TULSA — Caleb Bigpond celebrated his fourth birthday on Dec. 20 with an Incredible Hulk party theme.

Caleb is the son of Negiel and Colette Bigpond.

His maternal grandparents are Paul and Della Perez.

Paternal grandparents are Negiel and Jan Bigpond of Liberty Mounds.



Bigpond

Ramirez celebrates first birthday

HAYWARD, CA — Mahiya Serena Ramirez celebrated her first birthday on Dec. 13 with BBQ.

She is the daughter of Sheila Rabbit Ramirez and Luis Ramirez.

Maternal grandparents are Amos and Pauline Rabbit of Okemah.

Paternal grandparents are Jose and Carmen Ramirez of Hayward, CA.

Mahiya has two brothers, Daniel and Robert.

She is a member of the Raccoon Clan.



Ramirez

Sumka celebrates birthday

HENRYETTA — Jerry Sumka celebrate his birthday on Jan. 12 with friends and family. He celebrated with a meal of BBQ ribs and catfish and an evening of fellowship and laughs.

## Society

Dr. Hale serving in Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN — Captain Brent Hale Jr., M.D., is currently serving in Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion,

19th special forces group.

He left July 31 for training at Ft. Bradds, North Carolina, then deployed Sept. 8. His unit is out of Camp Williams near Salt Lake City, Utah, United States Army National Guard.

The unit goes out on patrol to remote areas where living conditions are primitive. Brent serves as doctor to his unit as well as the Afghan people.

He earned his wings in March, after completing three weeks of jump school training at Ft. Benning, Georgia as a member of the Airborne Special Forces.

His father, Brent, Sr., a Korean war veteran, pinned the wings on him in a ceremony held March 14.

Hale is married to Monica and they have three children Jessica, Adam and Cheyenne.

Hale is the son of Brent and Bernice Harjo Hale of Okmulgee. He belongs to the Deer Clan and Tuckepuce Tribal Town.



Hale

## Anniversary

Couple celebrates their 40th wedding anniversary

OKEMAH — Mr. & Mrs. Amos Rabbit celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They were married on Aug. 19, 1963 at the Okmulgee county courthouse.

On Aug. 23 they renewed their wedding vows with Rev. Joe Lowe performing the ceremony.

They have three daughters Sheila Ramirez, Tammy Rodriguez, and Kimberly Silva all of Hayward, California.

The Rabbits have four grandsons and four granddaughters.



Mr. and Mrs. Rabbit

## Correction:

The article about Tahlequah Sequoyah athlete Nancy James in last month's issue should have read Lela James, not Lila and Nancy's grandparents included Sonny and Nannie Lewis of Dustin. The *Muscogee Nation News* staff regrets the error and apologizes to the James family.



## Council House opens new exhibits

**OKMULGEE** — The Creek Council House Museum recently opened a new exhibit space entitled, "Communities of the Mvskoke people: Who Are We?" During this exhibit space opening, a reception was held to pay tribute to former Chief Beaver and honor present Chief Ellis.

This event allowed for the museum staff to upgrade the chief's portraits and have it as the first exhibit in the Communities Room. The newly renamed exhibit space will be setup as a rotating exhibition of various topics concerning the Mvskoke People. This space will allow for the various communities within the Creek Nation an opportunity to help talk about themselves.

The slated schedule of rotation and the various topics to be explored will be determined at a later date. The tentative list of topics will include but not be limited to: Creek government; churches; tribal towns; trail of tears; civil war; statehood; and dawes allotment.

The communities will be given a chance to help design a portion of the space with other artifacts supporting the topic coming from the museum's collections.

A timetable will be published at a later date outlining the frequency and list of topics to be included within such an exhibit rotation schedule. One possible outcome from having the public's involvement is that the various groups will be able to learn how to setup their own exhibition at their own space using the vision that was contributed to the exhibition. A traveling exhibit may be possible to allow for rotation throughout the Creek Nation.

In making the exhibit space available to the various groups to tell their own stories, a collaborative bridge will be built between the Creek Council House Museum and those within the communities who are in charge of history. The museum will be able to fill in some missing information that is known to be out there within the community.

It is within the scope of the chiefs exhibit the Creek Council House museum is asking the public for information about past creek chiefs, in particular, Echo Harjo, who was chief during the last of the civil war. We would like to obtain biographical information about past chiefs to enable an upgrade to the Creek Council House Museum database.

During the 1920's-30's we as a nation did not always have a chief in power. One had to be appointed for the day by the president of the United States. Henry Harjo was one such chief who was appointed just to be able to sign governmental documents. Presently there is no biographical information on Henry Harjo. Pictures or stories would be of great assistance for those who want to share them.

The Creek Council House Museum vision with this exhibit is to offer the Creek communities an opportunity to present and preserve the stories of who we are in our own voices.

For more information contact Ted Isham, Curator (918) 7562324 or e-mail: curator@sbcglobal.net.

## Two Rivers food and nutrition program

**SAPULPA** — Community food banks are currently being developed to help people in need of food. Most programs require that qualifications be met in order to receive assistance. However, anyone in crisis and needing food will receive emergency help through the Two Rivers and AmeriCorps Vista Food/Nutrition Program.

An application is required along with a photo identification card and social security numbers for each child. Each applicant must come to the food bank in person to receive food.

Donations are needed. Encourage your business or organization to have a food drive to collect canned or boxed food. Call the food bank if you need assistance with coordination or to volunteer.

The food bank hours are as follows: Monday – Wednesday 1p.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Friday through Sunday are emergency calls only.

For more information, contact the AmeriCorps VISTA food bank located at 722 N. Hodge Sapulpa, OK 74066 or call (918) 227-1508 or (918) 633-1916.

## Prayers for armed services to be held

**HAYDONVILLE**— Prayer services for armed service men and women will be held on February 22 at 2 p.m. at Montesoma Baptist Church.

All churches are invited to attend. The church location is 13 miles north of Okemah on Highway 56 to Haydonville, then 2 miles north.

Montesoma Church would like to request any and all churches to help carry on a monthly prayer services for their safe return home and for world peace.

For more information contact Liz Yahola at (918) 623-9359.

## Goate family reunion

The Goate family reunion is scheduled to be held

on July 4. The family is seeking those related to Athelena Hanna Fish Goate and Rev. John Jefferson Goate, whose parents were Betsy Phillip and Peter Fish and Rachael Checotah and Alfred Goat respectively.

For more information, contact Alfred Goate at (405)869-2152 or Lydia Harrison at (405) 382-6905 or Rachael Williams at (405)682-2995.

## Annual wild onion dinner

**HOLDENVILLE** — Salt Creek United Methodist Church will be holding their annual all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner on March 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The cost for Adults are \$7 and children 10 & under is \$4.

The church is located eight miles north on HWY 48 and two miles east of Holdenville.

For more information contact Lizzie at (405)379-5825.

## Tulsa Creek Indian community wild onion dinner

**TULSA**— The Tulsa Creek Indian Community (TCIC) Center will be having a wild onion dinner and an outside arts & crafts fair on March 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost for adults will be \$7 and children 8 & under will be \$3. The menu will consist of wild onions and eggs, ham or salt pork, red beans, corn, frybread, sofkey, grape dumplings, dessert, and tea or coffee.

The arts & crafts fair will be held outside with weather permitting. Vendors are requested to bring their own tables and chairs. There is no charge for setup, but the community is asking for a donation from their table for prizes and gift shop.

The event will be located at 8611 S. Union, which is the first road west of HWY 75 between 81st and 91st street.

TCIC invites everyone to attend. For more information, contact the TCIC office at (918)298-2464 or Debbie Ridge at (918)446-6864.

## 1ST ANNUAL ALL-INDIAN MARCH MADNESS TOURNAMENT



The 1st Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament is slated for March 18-20, 2004, in Dewar, Oklahoma. The inaugural event, sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program, will feature boys & girls teams made up of High School Indian All-Stars throughout Oklahoma and possibly neighboring states.

Our three-day event has a three game guarantee with a March Madness feel. Teams will compete in pool play and compete in a single elimination tournament to determine the champion and winner of the **GOLD BALL**.

Special events such as an East/West All-Star Game and 3-point contest will be held during the tournament. Plus, all the action can be seen over and over again on a DVD that will be made available after the tournament. The finals will be video taped and will include pre-game, half-time, post-game interviews and an awards presentation. Entry fee is \$100. Deadline for entries is March 1. For more information go to [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov) and go the current events in the Communications Department or call (918) 732-7634.





## STATE OF THE NATION January 31, 2004

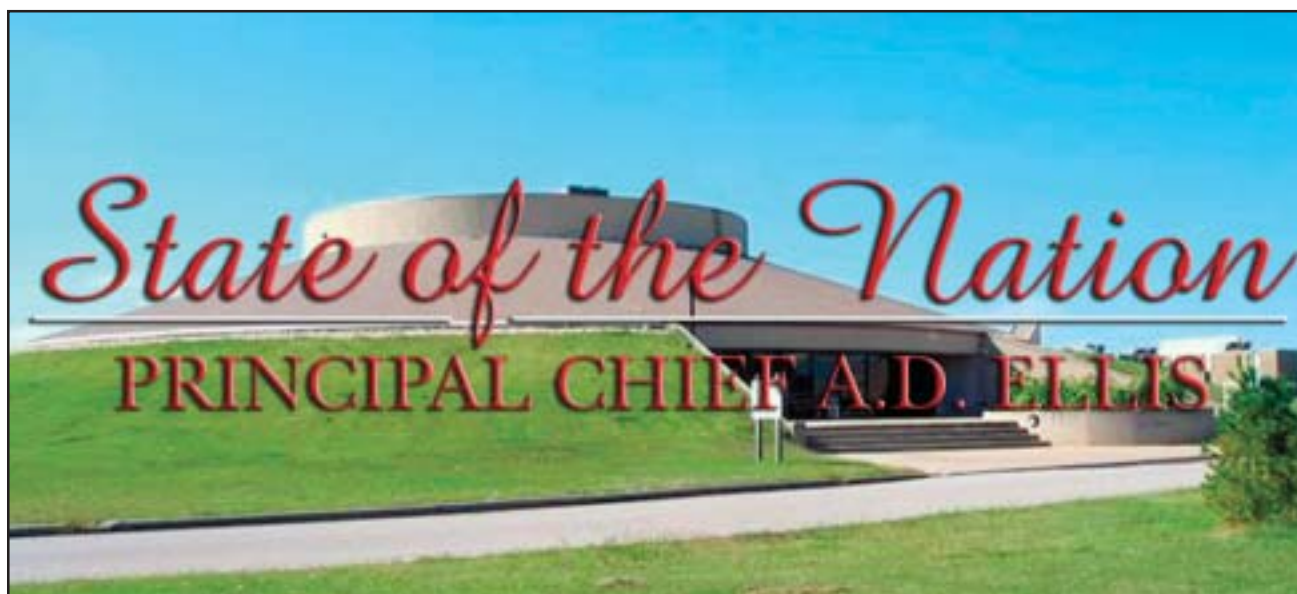
Good morning everyone. It's an overwhelming honor to be here representing Muscogee (Creek) Nation office of Principal Chief. This is my first state of nation address. I have obviously never done one. I haven't had any coaching. I don't prepare a normal speech. I put my notes down and go from there. I should know enough about our nation to know these issues. So I will go ahead and do it my way.

Our Nation is financially sound. We have many projects going on now. We have many Commercial projects going on now. Our **Accounting Department System** has always received the highest award from the federal government. This is the 12th year for us to receive this award. We were the first nation in the U.S. to receive this award.

Our **Gaming Industry** is doing great. We have record-breaking months every month for our revenue. We have over \$50 million in our permanent fund. We need to find ways to leverage our permanent funds to better improve our businesses. Our tribal budget last year was \$125 million. If the Federal Government was to pull our funding, \$50 million would not last but about five months. In order for us to be successful, we need to continue with sound financial businesses and corporations to stand and keep producing.

We have just completed and opened our **Commodity Warehouse**. A \$1.5 million dollar project to better serve our people. We have a Financial office at the complex in progress. Our estimated completion date is September 2004. This project cost us approximately \$800 thousand. We are out of room and offices in our nation's headquarters.

We have a proposed educational building site on the east side of the complex. A block grant from HUD was part of the funding. It is a 1.5 million project. Our biggest project now is Coweta's new clinic. We have secured \$15 million at Bank One of Oklahoma. A bill was submitted today in the council for a new casino in Okmulgee has already been approved. It is for a Sprung building to increase revenue at the Tulsa casino. It will increase machines by 400-500 machines in Tulsa. It is a temporary placement. Construction will start in the late



summer. This is a \$100 million project that will provide us with 2000 jobs with a large stream of revenue. I met with the Mayor's office to get all bridges solved to get this casino moving. I plan to meet with the Corp of Engineers and FEMA. A lot of planning is needed before construction is to begin.

A proposal will be brought to National Council soon for a new multipurpose building at the Omni-plex. We have a Block Grant from HUD for \$750 thousand, requesting National Council to add to this proposal to help with this project. Which will consist of a Basketball Gym, Wellness center, and Dialysis center. Dr. Joseph Grimm from IHS, Rockville, MD informed us how to acquire our own dialysis center.

**Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise**, a wholly owned tribal business; Primarily securing Government contracts. Contract with Altus Air Force Base for \$25 million over a six year period. They oversee the travel plazas (3). Construction Company. At present they are repairing and replacing the roof and air conditioning of the existing casino. They will be working on the \$1 million sprung building in Tulsa. It is time MCN should have our own Construction company, we should be doing our own work. Instead of paying out side companies doing our work, we need to circulate money within tribe using our own money repeatedly.

During my first week in office, I was sworn in about daylight on the fifth. I caught a plane with MNBE and accompanied them when they made their presentation to Marine Corps Systems at Quantico, VA. We been waiting for a month for an answer. They pulled it off the street and sole sourced it to MCN. We just had to prove to them that we could do it. It's a \$300 million contract worldwide, hopefully in the next week we will know if we got it. But if we didn't, there are hundreds more out there. That will be revenue and jobs to Muscogee (Creek) Nation. There hasn't been a concerted effort like this in the last 12-15 years to bring business in to the tribe. We've got to rely on our tribal businesses to survive.

Mike Nalley and myself went to Tulsa to visit AAON. They manufacture commercial A/C, some as big as an 18 wheelers some smaller. We want to partner with them, secure government contracts. With the tribe they can secure government contracts and have it sole sourced to the tribe without bidding on them. The President of the company also has been working with MCN about seven years. About seven years

ago he took a lot of our people, some that had been in jail, some ex-convicts, some that couldn't find a job. This man took a chance on them, some of them are still working there. He wants to employ some more people. He has jobs now and there will be some there next week. We need to make a contact at MCN for the jobs that are there. Some college degree levels, some for manual labor, but he has promised us jobs.

**Trade & Commerce Department** is a company wholly owned by the tribe. They acquire commercial contracts. They run the travel plazas. There is a bill in Council, next month, for an Imaging company. Every where in MCN there are documents stored in vans and warehouses that needs to be on microfilm. Housing Authority of the Creek Nation alone has over \$2.5 million sheets to convert to microfilm that would have to go to an outside company at the cost of .18 cents per sheet. With this imaging company, we could do all that work within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, for the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation, the Casino, even other tribes. I am saving the old commodity warehouse, hoping we can get this company moving, creating more jobs for our people.

If you come down Hwy 75 (southbound) on the road across from McCoys, MCN owns 40 acres. You can see the old corrals. You will see some heavy equipment, a industrial park will be established there at that site. They are busy now tearing down those corrals. I had the authority to declare surplus property of the junk and junk cars. Mr. Chaney and myself worked out a deal at no cost to the tribe. We just gave them the junk from there for hauling it off. Before long you will be seeing streets coming up, the city has already gave us water taps. I'd like to come back to Council again requesting metal buildings to be erected there at the site. Because if these contracts come through, no matter who, we will need the space. Again, that will provide jobs for our people in the nation.

The key to all this is Education. We also met last week on the Tribal college here at OSU Okmulgee. We are going to have a resolution from Human Development to Council to fund a study to get this one on the road. And also a resolution to establish a Board of Regents. The President of the College, Mr. Klabenes, said we could possibly have students out there this fall. They will have 18 openings, they promised us 10 positions. We will make appropriations to pay their tuition, costs and maybe we can get ten of our people who would come out



as RN's, but with the stipulation they come back and work for the tribe for five years if we pay for all their education. We have plenty of need for our own people in our clinics.

I would like to establish a program for our uneducated people. We have thousand of people out there that are not educated. They come to our social services. They are on welfare. I don't know how to do it, but there has to be a way to work the labor Department to create jobs. Give them some, pride let them work, and provide for their children with clothes. That's the reason I'm trying to surround myself with highly successful people to create a program for us. I would like a welfare-to-work program. We have families that come in to our Social Services. Our Social Services program are over-run. The money does not last long at all. That's another reason to provide businesses as another source of income to our tribe, to use these to supplement our program and better serve our people. Some families have been on welfare for years and years, and now their children are on welfare. That's another program we need to initiate. Provide these young people the initiative to go out and find jobs or provide jobs for them within the nation preferably.

**Transportation system** going to bring a resolution to council. There's \$1 million in the Indian Reservation road programs set aside. The deadline is May 2004. The Apache & Kiowa tribes provide transportation system that transports their citizens between Carnage, Anadarko, Lawton and OKC. They are small tribes but are far ahead of us in the transportation system. We've got to set up a system possibly to have buses from Eufaula, Okemah, and Holdenville to transport people here at 8 a.m., back at 5 p.m., to give people the opportunity to come to the complex and take care of their business, have lunch and go back at home at no charge. This is \$1 million a year, we don't even have to show a profit. This is a very important program we need to get started as soon as possible.

**Road Construction;** in the years 2002 & 2003 MCN paid for 51 miles of hard surface. In 2004, we have 43.6 miles earmarked.. Sharp Road (Okmulgee) has been completed. We need to let the other people know what we do. I am ready for a PR system for our tribe. Listen to radio in a.m., they'll say well the Creeks are making all this money, making millions and millions of dollars. We need to let them know that these millions of dollars does not go into anybody's pockets. It is for the Creek people in the programs. I'd like to initiate a video program to all our communities, so people in Eufaula could right now be watching this meeting on video and monitor. The 8(a) program here at the complex of MNBE has created lots of companies underneath their umbrella one of that could do just this. Another tribally owned company. Town Hall meetings, I promised the people that I would have these throughout the nation, I have one set for March 25, 2004 in Eufaula.

We have a new **Festival Committee**, all new people on the committee, we've had good festivals in the past but I'd like to see one better. All Indian Rodeo, I've requested to have this advertised all over the nation. I talked to the Chief of the Florida Seminoles, he said he would fly them here, I'd like to see Navajos, when Claude Cox was chief we had Navajos, people came in from Canada, Alaska people from all over coming to our rodeos. I'd like to see that this year.

**New ID system;** things have become lax over the

years here this is not a popular program, but we got to have it. Every employee under the Administration will be given a ID card with their picture, number, the department they work in and a bar code. When they come in at 8 a.m. they will swipe their card it will clock them in, it will tell where they work, and when they arrived. We are going to start tracking our employees. MCN pays a good wage and we should get a good day of work.

Another thing I will need help from the National Council our MCN complex has not have any renovations, it has not had any in the twelve-plus years as long as I've been here. We have huge cedar trees located in front that blocks the building, we have a nice looking architectural building. I'd like to have some money to do a renovations on this complex. If you come out of the complex late a night and walk by one of those trees you can hear about a 1000 birds in each tree, I'm sure it's a health hazard also. I'd like to revamp the face of this nation. We are already checking on a sign there an old sign about six-foot, you can go down there and tear a piece of it off. People at the Inauguration did not even know that we are here at this intersection. We are looking at a 30 foot sign for the intersection of Hwy 75 at Loop 56 at the MCN Tribal Headquarters with a large flashing sign to inform people what we have going on, what's happening, our festival, and our Council meetings. We can program it from our office.

**Gaming compacts;** I've been to OKC twice talking to Mr. Kirke Kickingbird and staff about keeping up with Gaming compacts. It's in the hands of the legislature. We'll see what happens with the Gaming. Tobacco compact will be in about 18 months. I see there will probably be an increase in state tax on Tobacco compact. We've got our people working on it.

**Housing Authority of Creek Nation** - this is no offense to any one person or issue. I want to address this rather deeply is an agency state of Oklahoma. Letter came from Housing Authority of the Creek Nation Attorney to the Director of Housing Authority of the Creek Nation. It says that the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation is a agency of the state of Oklahoma possessing all the powers, rights, and functions herein specified for city and county authorities in Oklahoma. I haven't made this public but I've been working on for the last six months in OKC with the state representative and state senators. Lately I found out the title of the Chief from the fourth largest tribe in America opens a lot of doors, they pay attention to you - and I will be using that to help people of this nation.



There was a bill in 2000 to bring Housing Authority of the Creek Nation under the tribe and all the tribal entities 39 tribes, the small tribes lobbied against it, and it was tabled. I had this pulled off of the table and reentered. State Representative Ray Miller from Stigler, they called from OKC two weeks ago. They were kind enough to put me through to the Lawyer who writes the bills for the House of Representatives and he asked "what do you think we need in this bill?"

I asked him to omit the small tribes and only include the five civilized. I spoke with the other four Chiefs and they all agreed. This bill will be passed between now and May 2004.

We have contacted dozens and dozens of representatives, some came down last week and they support this legislation "*upon filing of such a resolution with the office of the Secretary of State, the management and control of the state agency Indian Housing authority, together with ownership of all assets and liabilities of the housing authority, shall transfer to the Indian tribe and the state agency Indian Housing Authority created for the tribe shall cease to exist*" I think it's time the tribe took over all tribal business.

**Health issues** I think it has been at least a year and a half since we've had a Director for Health, it is a very important position. I am going to send a letter from my office to the Health Board on Monday giving them 90 days to appoint a Health Director. If no one is appointed within this time frame, I will appoint one from my office. We had an emergency last night at St Francis. We had a elderly gentleman, terminally ill. They called me at 4:00 to request an ambulance to transport him from St Francis back to Okemah. They said they couldn't that. I called the Hospital Administrator at 4:15, he was not there, no one was. We called headquarters at Lackey Hall. There must be 30-40 people employed there. We couldn't get anyone to answer the phone on this emergency. Another letter will be going out to them telling them that someone needs to answer that phone from 8-5. We finally got an ambulance to pick him up at 10:00 last night, six hours later. Mr. Nichols informed that we finally got him to his destination.

Impacting the nation, we have a reorganization plan which gives me the authority to reorganize the executive branch. I am asking for two budgets in addition to what we have now. One to establish for capital security, I want to see a man in front lobby to greet our Full Blood Creek people, to direct, assist them getting there, and giving security around the complex. He must be C.L.E.E.T. certified, speak, read and write the Creek Language. The other for a grant writer strictly for the education department, our tribal college, Headstart, Child Care centers, and Higher Education. I think there is a great opportunity for funding.

My new Cabinet will be introduced. It is amazing when you bring in someone new to the tribe the rumors that go around.. I want to advise those that hear, or pass them on, if you want to start rumors, start them about me. Leave my employees alone!

Last, there are two kinds of politicians. There's politicians that make decision that benefit themselves and certain groups of people. There's another group that's called statesmen, they make decisions that benefit the tribe as a whole, regardless of what happens. I'd like to think all of us sitting here are statesmen. Mvto.

GENERAL FUND:	BUDGETS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	BALANCE
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	261,208.00	0.00	0.00	261,208.00
WETUMKA PROPERTY	43,400.00	0.00	0.00	43,400.00
TREASURY	4,694.00	0.00	1,152.00	3,542.00
LITIGATION & LOBBYING	65,765.00	34,903.00	30,862.00	0.00
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	1,903,584.00	10,994.00	1,800,430.00	92,160.00
MOTOR FUEL TAXES	722,384.00	2,583.00	666,583.00	53,218.00
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	3,082,345.00	1,530.00	2,798,317.00	282,498.00
CREEK NATION BINGO	12,092,264.00	729,897.00	8,226,506.00	3,135,861.00
CN PERMANENT FUND	700,319.00	12,109.00	324,854.00	363,356.00
TOM JOHNSON PERM FUND	0.00	0.00	94,835.00	(94,835.00)
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	2,182.00	0.00	338.00	1,844.00
CODIFICATION	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
4-H CLUB	10,754.00	0.00	11,239.00	(485.00)
READING IS FUNDAMENTAL	1,895.00	0.00	1,890.00	5.00
READING IS FUNDAMENTAL	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
HENSSLER ASSET MGMT	0.00	0.00	34,065.00	(34,065.00)
MCN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE	146,400.00	0.00	0.00	146,400.00
TRIBAL BUDGET	269,613.00	0.00	163,960.00	105,653.00
MCN FLAGS & ETC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	1,500.00	0.00	219.00	1,281.00
MOTOR VEHICLE	1,774,582.00	239,129.00	1,405,457.00	129,996.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>21,185,889.00</b>	<b>1,031,145.00</b>	<b>15,560,707.00</b>	<b>4,594,037.00</b>
<b>DEPT OF LABOR:</b>				
WIA-TITLE I	1,014.00	0.00	1,014.00	0.00
WIA-TITLE I '01	5,199.00	0.00	5,199.00	0.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '01	12,481.00	0.00	12,481.00	0.00
WIA-TITLE I '02	548,841.00	1,677.00	526,230.00	20,934.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '02	88,036.00	0.00	88,036.00	0.00
WIA-TITLE IVA	672,524.00	255.00	163,215.00	509,054.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '03	488,038.00	62.00	380,053.00	107,923.00
WELFARE TO WORK	6,410.00	0.00	268.00	6,142.00
WELFARE TO WORK '99	1,656.00	0.00	1,619.00	37.00
<b>TOTAL DEPT OF LABOR</b>	<b>1,824,199.00</b>	<b>1,994.00</b>	<b>1,178,115.00</b>	<b>644,090.00</b>
<b>HOUSING &amp; URBAN DEV:</b>				
HUD-NAHASDA '00	6,372,586.00	1,204,592.00	2,573,750.00	2,594,244.00
HUD-SPAULPA CLINIC	750,000.00	25,728.00	724,272.00	0.00
HUD-ROSS '01	96,231.00	0.00	(6,361.00)	102,592.00
HUD-NAHASDA '01	14,618,742.00	0.00	4,272,180.00	10,346,562.00
HUD-DRUG ELIMINATION	83,967.00	0.00	(34,253.00)	118,220.00
HUD-FOOD DIST. BLDG	750,000.00	168,162.00	559,951.00	21,887.00
HUD-NAHASDA '02	17,647,188.00	6,492.00	472,604.00	17,168,092.00
HUD-NAHASDA '98	1,214,308.00	0.00	1,214,308.00	0.00
HUD-NAHASDA '99	3,465,113.00	0.00	2,973,588.00	491,525.00
<b>TOTAL HUD:</b>	<b>44,998,135.00</b>	<b>1,404,974.00</b>	<b>12,750,039.00</b>	<b>30,843,122.00</b>
<b>DEPT OF HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SVC:</b>				
CCDBG MANDATORY '01	339,733.00	0.00	339,733.00	0.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE '01	28,342.00	0.00	28,342.00	0.00
LIHEAP '02	5,911.00	0.00	5,911.00	0.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION '02	189,842.00	51.00	184,799.00	4,992.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '02	682,444.00	51,552.00	505,827.00	125,065.00
CCDBG MANDATORY '02	841,771.00	77,527.00	524,753.00	239,491.00
HEAD START '02	535,275.00	0.00	471,298.00	63,977.00
TITLE IV-B '02	154,240.00	0.00	148,981.00	5,259.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE '02	243,214.00	0.00	214,011.00	29,203.00
LIHEAP '03	157,359.00	0.00	155,263.00	2,096.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION '03	227,111.00	0.00	65,379.00	161,732.00
CCDBG-DISCRETIONARY '03	1,513,618.00	33,954.00	505,503.00	974,161.00
CCDBG - MANATORY '03	2,545,476.00	38,118.00	1,247,401.00	1,259,957.00
HEADSTART '03	2,060,260.00	41,548.00	1,593,071.00	425,641.00
TITLE IV-B '03	245,445.00	0.00	21,752.00	223,693.00
<b>TOTAL DHHS</b>	<b>9,770,041.00</b>	<b>242,750.00</b>	<b>6,012,024.00</b>	<b>3,515,267.00</b>
<b>DEPT OF AGRICULTURE:</b>				
FOOD DISTRIBUTION '02	5,120.00	0.00	5,120.00	0.00
FOOD DISTRIBUTION '03	414,000.00	0.00	408,526.00	5,474.00
<b>TOTAL USDA</b>	<b>419,120.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>413,646.00</b>	<b>5,474.00</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME:</b>				
FEMA	4,326.00	0.00	4,326.00	0.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	41,593.00	750.00	22,520.00	18,323.00
MCN CHILD DEV. CENTER	516,446.00	1,600.00	425,487.00	89,359.00
USDA HEADSTART REIMBURSE	141,228.00	0.00	99,291.00	41,937.00

continued on page 11

# Muscogee (Creek) Nation quarterly financial statement

Quarter ending September 30, 2003 Pre-  
pared by the office of the controller

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending September 30, 2003 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditure, and balance for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The **receipts** are dollar amounts received for the period ending September 30, 2003. The figures include, but are not limited to, federal dollars received on grants or contracts, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the second quarter ending September 30, 2003.

The **budget** figure represents the amounts approved in the comprehensive annual budget.

The **encumbered** amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the year.

**Expended** amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

The **balance** figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of September 30, 2003.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.



## Caregiver program offers various types of assistance to family caregivers

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Division of Health Administration Native American Caregiver Support Program offers assistance to family caregivers who devote their time and energy of overseeing the care of a family member.

The program's main concern is helping the family caregiver take time for themselves so that their own health is not compromised while caring for their loved one.

Family caregivers play an important role in the lives of the elderly. Many elderly are loved and cared for by relatives, friends or neighbors who assist them with activities of daily living, such as housekeeping, personal care or transportation to medical appointments. Because of illness or frailty, many elders would have been placed in a nursing home or other facility if it were not for the family caregiver.

According to a recent study conducted by the Journal of Public Health Medicine, there is a vitally important need for family caregivers. Studies have shown that elderly with diabetes are more likely to need help bathing, dressing and performing other daily basic activities earlier in their lives opposed to their nondiabetic peers.

Another study from the Journal of the American Medical Association stated the health of Alzheimers patients is improved by exercise. Caregivers were able to learn how to encourage and supervise exercise participation of patients in this program. The Alzheimers patients achieved increased levels of activity, decreased rates of depression and improved physical health and function.

The Native American Caregiver Support Program offers the following assistance to caregivers and their families:

- Information and Referral — Information and referrals regarding other agencies or organization pertaining to the various needs of the family caregiver and assistance with accessing these services;
- Respite Service — The family caregiver can hire a respite worker to give them a break from their care giving duties;
- Training and Support Groups — Individual skills training and support groups target specific areas of need are available for participants; and
- Supplement Service — Upon the approval of the program manager, participants may be supplemented with extended respite service, as well as certain emergency situations.

For more information, contact the Native American Caregiver Support Program at (918)758-2727 or 1(800)353-3439. Those interested in the program may also visit Loretta WInd Jumper, Caregiver Program Coordinator, at the McCullough Building, located at 114 North Grand, Room 303 in Okmulgee.

## Diabetes program and Oklahoma State Department of Health work together to provide after school activities

OKEMAH — The Muscogee Creek Nation Diabetes Prevention Program and the Oklahoma State Department of Health are working together to provide the "Move It on Route 66 and Prevent Diabetes" program for the first through sixth grade students of Stidham, Hanna, Dustin and Ryal schools.

The program encourages after school exercise and physical activity. Each class in the school will travel the historic Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles by exercising in 30-minute increments. Each 30 minute exercise activity coupon is worth 5 miles for their class.

The program kick off assembly was held at each school at the beginning of November. Cyndi Gilks, Muscogee (Creek) Nation CHR Program Manager, and Wood Hansen, Cherokee Nation CHR Program, put on a skit using the Wizard of Oz's scarecrow and Dorothy. The skit stressed the need to be more active and the dangers of being physically inactive.

Each week Scott Robison, Diabetes program, and

Tressia Ables, Health Department, will be visiting the schools and working with the students in their classroom and physical education classes to educate the students on the prevention of diabetes and the importance of a physically active lifestyle. Each month

prizes will be given out to students at each school and the teacher whose classroom has traveled the farthest on Route 66 at each school will receive \$200 for classroom materials. The 2nd and 3rd place teachers at each school will receive \$100 and \$50.

The Diabetes Prevention Program also sponsors a middle school jump rope program.

The jump rope team performed at halftime of the Okemah and Mason High School basketball games in December. The students performed the different jump rope skills that they have learned over the past months. These students are jumping to spread the message that diabetes can be prevented. The team plans to jump rope at more basketball games and school assemblies this semester.



Cyndi Gilks performs a skit dressed as Dorothy to school students promoting a healthy lifestyle. photo submitted

## CHR program receives award for outstanding service

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Health Representative (CHR) Program has won a major Senior Transportation Action Response (Star) award presented by the AAA and Beverly Foundations for Traffic Safety.

The STAR awards recognize organizations that provide outstanding transportation services to senior citizens. The CHR Program and the other three star award winners in the U.S. receive national recognition and a \$1,000 cash award. STAR award winners are judged on specific criteria relating to senior citizens and transportation services, such as a variety of routes, timeliness and whether transit is provided door-to-door or curb-to-curb.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been transport-

ing senior passengers since 1968, making it one of the oldest continuing programs of any tribe in the country.

"The AAA foundation is committed to enhancing the quality of life of seniors and recognizes the significance that transportation access has to this important agenda," said Chuck Mai, AAA Oklahoma. "For many older drivers, giving up the keys means a complete loss of independence. Supplemental transportation programs such as this help older Americans remain in their homes and continue their normal activities."

Most seniors use the tribe's services to get to medical visits; the second most popular purpose is to transportation to social and recreational activities.



Pictured above is the CHR Program staff.



# Spotlight

“Discipline, focus, and the willingness to help others, not to benefit yourself, are required (for ceremonial leaders). Mvto, Makit rafekhonis.” - T. Thompson

## Ceremonial leader helps Creek culture survive

by Joshua Slane

It's a dog eat dog world and the idea that you do what you need to do, to do right by yourself is an all too common philosophy in today's times. But there are a few people who still hold true to the older values of helping others, and caring about their fellow man. One of these rare individuals is Tim Thompson.

Tim Thompson has lived his life serving people other than himself. He served the United States by joining the Marine Corps at the age of 19 and served in the Vietnam War but that was not his calling.

As a child when he and his friends/family played stomp dance he always played medicine man. His brother, George, played the role of chief. It is only fitting that now, as an adult, he serves his people in the position of the current ceremonial leader of the Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground and his brother serves as the Mekko.

The original Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground is in Alabama and was the last remaining ceremonial grounds the Creek Tribe possessed. According to Tim Thompson, in the 1970's the Muscogee (Creek) Nation had a chance to reclaim the original grounds but passed up the opportunity. The state of Alabama now holds the original grounds in trust for the Poarch Band Creeks. However, after the Time of Removal the tribe relocated the Hickory Ground and it is currently located South of Henryetta, where it has been since 1911. Prior to it's location in 1911, it served as the headquarters for Chitto Harjo and the Crazy Snakes in their famous fight for tribal sovereignty.

Serving as the ceremonial leader of such a distinguished ceremonial ground is no trivial task and brings with it many varied responsibilities. First and foremost he's the tender of the tribe's physical well being. He tends each individual's well being with a variety of natural medicines given to the Tribe by the Creator, one of which is tobacco.

He also takes part in the stomp dances, especially in the Green Corn Ceremony held in July. The Green Corn Ceremony is the largest of the four Ceremonies the Muscogee Creeks have and is similar to the New Year holiday in that it is

a time of renewal, reunification and most of all, purification of the body.

Tim's greatest current concern is the decline of the Muscogee Creek culture.

Christians started the genocide on the culture during the attempt to “civilize” the tribes by Christianizing and Europeanizing them. This started a decline in the culture, religion, and especially the language that Tim still sees continuing to this day. “Christianity started the genocide on our language. It wasn't ours and people should know that.”

However he doesn't believe things are hopeless. In the last 5 years or so many people have began returning to the more traditional ways. This trend he believes will help, but alone it will not be enough to allow the Muscogee Creek culture, religion, or language to continue into the 22<sup>nd</sup> century.

What he says is needed to continue the Muscogee way of life is programs to teach the younger generations the culture, religion, and especially the language, for without the language a people can't hold on to it's culture or it's religion. The programs that are currently in place are a step in the right direction but too often the teachers are not native Creek speakers and do not know as much of the language as would be preferred.

In parting Tim gives us a good bit of wisdom we can all take to heart. “Remember who you are, what you do in life will never change who you are.”

And for all those who would like to follow in his footsteps and be a medicine man of any of the ceremonial grounds, “Know the language first,” states Thompson. “Discipline, focus, and the willingness to help others, not to benefit yourself, are required (for ceremonial leaders). Mvto, Makit rafekhonis.”

Thompson is currently employed with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Department.

For more information about the Muscogee (Creek) culture and history, contact Thompson or Joyce Bear, Cultural Preservation Manager, at the cultural preservation office at (918) 732-7732.



Thompson



## Shop talk with Gerald

Over the weekend, I had the honor of covering the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremonies at the Radisson Inn located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Although none of the honorees were of Muscogee (Creek) descent, the Hall's board does include a Creek citizen, Turner Bear. The athletes chosen that night were certainly deserving of the distinction. The inductees included: Jim Warne, Jr. professional football player; Larry Joe Ramirez, collegiate baseball pitcher; and Howard Gale Hatch, an Olympic strength and conditioning coach.

Although all men certainly had interesting stories to share and to reminiscence about their day in the sun. Hatch told a story about how he was greatly influenced by legendary Jim Thorpe and his athletic feats. Because of this, Hatch decided to find some way to honor him. This was five years ago when the new century was about to begin and it seemed every news or media outlet was looking back and choosing their top 100 in different categories. True to form, the all sports channel, ESPN, named their top 100 athletes of the past century with basketball great Michael Jordan receiving the top honor. Fifty years earlier, the Associated Press writers selected the top athletes of the first half century. Thorpe, the only Native American in the group, was named the top athlete in this poll.

Hatch felt, as well as many others, that Thorpe was still due the top honor for all of 100 years. He wanted to find some way to recognize and honor Thorpe for his great athletic accomplishments. He contacted General Mills, Inc., the maker of Wheaties' cereal. Wheaties bills itself as the *Breakfast of Champions* and will occasionally promote athletes of distinction on their box covers. Hatch felt Thorpe certainly deserved this honor. However, General Mills wasn't too fond of the idea at first and it looked as though the great Native American athlete would not be pictured on the cereal box. But, when ABC gave Thorpe the top selection in their list of top athletes of the century, General Mills decided to give Thorpe his just due. He appeared on the Wheaties box cover during the year of 2000 and Hatch collected one for his very own, and so did this writer.

Basketball is going strong and get ready for another Native American basketball tournament in March. Lucas Taylor, Communications Manager, is coordinating the *First Annual March Madness All Indian' Basketball Tournament*. Early reports have great Native American basketball players, such as Solomon Hosechief of Tahlequah Sequoyah and Dan Wilson of Morris, competing in the tournament. If you are interested in entering a team, contact Taylor at (918) 732-7634.

Remember to drop us a line about those great Creek athletes, local and otherwise.

## Creek golfer going the distance

When Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Faith Castles asks her son Brad Pemberton how far he hit the ball today, he may reply, "Oh, around 450." Faith would respond with, "Oh, that's nice son. 450, that's pretty good."

Now you may be thinking 450 feet is a good distance for a baseball. However, we're not talking baseball and we're not talking feet. Golf is the sport and the distance is measured in yards.

Every day Pemberton is out to hit a golf ball the greatest distance possible. He is not doing it just for show or to win a bet among friends. He takes it seriously because he is a professional long driver. He has been a long drive pro since 2000.

"A long driver is a golfer who attempts to hit a golf ball as far as humanly possible within a 40-yard wide grid" says Pemberton.

The organization called the Long Drivers of America (LDA) was established in 1994 and serves as the organizing and administrative body for the sport of long drive. Long drive is an international sport that is played in more than two dozen countries. The LDA conducts a series of long drive competitions beginning at the local level and ending with a world competition level.

There is serious money to be won in the (LDA). In

2003, first place took home \$80,000 in the World Championship Open Division. According to Pemberton, the Pinnacle Long Drive Tour will offer more opportunities to win larger cash awards and bonuses this year.

Pemberton has always loved the sport of golf. He has played since he was a junior at Tascosa High School in Amarillo, Texas. He also played football and baseball and was awarded a scholarship to Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. "My background in college baseball has been a valuable tool in long drive," says Pemberton. "Bat and club head speed provide proficiency in both sports."

In 2001 and 2003, Pemberton competed in the RE/MAX Long Drive Championship finals against the long drive champion of Ireland and defeated him.

During this event, he elevated his ranking from 37th to 22nd in the world. He is currently tied for 19th on the official money list in the Pinnacle LDA Tour.

The LDA Tour will begin in Dallas on April 1 and will be televised for the first time on ESPN2.

Pemberton is proud of his Muscogee lineage and claims Chitto Harjo as his great, great, grandfather. He is the son of Faith Jacobs Pemberton and the late James Lyle Pemberton.



Pemberton

## Local high school player reaches milestone

They say records are made to be broken. But here's to the ones that set the records, for they are the athletes that set the tone and create a level for others to try and achieve. Dan Wilson, Morris High School basketball star, is one of those athletes.

Wilson is a senior at Morris High School and has been playing since the sixth grade. Recently, Wilson reached an important milestone in his young career. He scored his one-thousandth point in high school basketball.

The record occurred during the Okmulgee County Tournament played in January. Morris was battling their old rival, the Preston Pirates. "It took all of six seconds for it (record) to happen," said proud Father Al Wilson. "He (Danny) had 998 points going into this game."

The game was stopped to recognize Wilson and his special accomplishment. He was presented with the game ball. Wilson took it all in stride. "I just wanted to game to continue," said Wilson. "I was really more concerned

about the team winning the game than I was about anything else."

Wilson knew he was getting close to the record because his teammates and coach Brent Giddens would remind him from game to game.

"I knew I was getting close," said Wilson. "But honestly, I forgot all about it. When it did happen, they stopped the game. I really didn't know what was going on."

Wilson is the second player in Morris High School history to claim the honor of scoring 1,000 points in his high school career. He isn't finished just yet.

Wilson's Father boasted another fact of his son's career. "What is also significant about his time playing basketball is that he has always been part of a winning team," he said.

During the summer, Wilson plays with Williams Energy, an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team from Tulsa. Wilson hasn't made any college plans just yet, but he says he will play college ball.



Wilson



EUFAULADORMACTIVITY FUND	33,507.00	0.00	29,139.00	4,368.00
ELECTION BOARD PROG INC	24,096.00	0.00	10,261.00	13,835.00
COMMUNICATIONS REVOLVING	3,925.00	0.00	1,943.00	1,982.00
GAMING PROGRAM INCOME	40,000.00	0.00	29,647.00	10,353.00
CITIZENSHIP BOARD PROG INC	10,585.00	0.00	10,585.00	0.00
FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROG INC.	1,034.00	0.00	1,034.00	0.00
TRIBAL OVERVIEW HISTORY	10,194.00	0.00	10,194.00	0.00
LIGHTHORSE PROG INC.	3,686.00	0.00	0.00	3,686.00
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME</b>	<b>830,620.00</b>	<b>2,350.00</b>	<b>644,427.00</b>	<b>183,843.00</b>
<b>DEPT OF EDUCATION:</b>				
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC	0.00	0.00	225.00	(225.00)
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC '03	4,000.00	0.00	3,182.00	818.00
<b>TOTAL DOE</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,407.00</b>	<b>593.00</b>
<b>DEPT OF INTERIOR:</b>				
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	8,518,802.00	2,257,026.00	4,612,219.00	1,649,557.00
DOI-ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP	8,478.00	0.00	902.00	7,576.00
EUFAULADORM '00	261,264.00	0.00	134,543.00	126,721.00
TRANSPORTATION IMPROV '00	22,932.00	0.00	22,932.00	0.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '01	14,810.00	0.00	14,810.00	0.00
EUFAULADORM '01	568,457.00	80,084.00	399,575.00	88,798.00
TRANSPORTATION IMPROV '01	78,052.00	0.00	52,532.00	25,520.00
LAMAR ROAD	2,400.00	0.00	2,180.00	220.00
KELLYVILLE ROAD	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
LITTLE CUSSETH CHURCH RD	157,389.00	0.00	80,479.00	76,910.00
OKEMAH SCHOOL ROAD	398,506.00	20,066.00	340,633.00	37,807.00
THEWARLE CHURCH ROAD	188,689.00	70,169.00	79,563.00	38,957.00
PORTER ROAD	135,752.00	100,000.00	18,092.00	17,660.00
OLD BIXBY ROAD	803,712.00	0.00	759,271.00	44,441.00
SALEM ROAD	156,323.00	2,451.00	64,606.00	89,266.00
SKELLY/HASKELL	702,573.00	601,000.00	101,025.00	548.00
METHODIST CHURCH ROAD	192,334.00	0.00	189,713.00	2,621.00
HECTORVILLE ROAD	1,284,685.00	125,000.00	1,433.00	1,158,252.00
SUMMIT SOUTH ROAD	198,094.00	192,277.00	3,941.00	1,876.00
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD '02	5,756.00	0.00	5,756.00	0.00
JOM '02	478,702.00	2,200.00	467,117.00	9,385.00
EUFAULADORM '02	1,480,160.00	0.00	814,642.00	665,518.00
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD '03	13,697.00	279.00	4,608.00	8,810.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '03	959,921.00	4,553.00	531,374.00	423,994.00
EUFAULADORM '03	648,000.00	0.00	10,251.00	637,749.00
OAKDALE SCHOOL BLDG	24,000.00	0.00	23,335.00	665.00
MCINTOSH FENCING	4,183.00	0.00	3,606.00	577.00
CALVIN NORTH ROAD	1,731,488.00	1,714,173.00	2,267.00	15,048.00
STIDHAM ROAD	450,000.00	443,500.00	6,500.00	0.00
ARBEKA ROAD	2,172,620.00	1,579,600.00	577,308.00	15,712.00
KELLYVILLE PROJECT	3,245,064.00	48,000.00	248,445.00	2,948,619.00
EUFAULADORM '99	34,734.00	0.00	9,550.00	25,184.00
MONTEZUMA PROJECT	44,234.00	0.00	2,830.00	41,404.00
<b>TOTAL DEPT OF INTERIOR</b>	<b>24,990,811.00</b>	<b>7,240,378.00</b>	<b>9,586,038.00</b>	<b>8,164,395.00</b>
<b>DEPT OF JUSTICE:</b>				
VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE	28,222.00	0.00	19,159.00	9,063.00
DRUG COURT	98,022.00	0.00	52,160.00	45,862.00
TRIBAL RESOURCES COP	57,846.00	0.00	57,846.00	0.00
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	132,637.00	0.00	47,124.00	85,513.00
EPA	40,199.00	0.00	5,009.00	35,190.00
<b>TOTAL DEPT OF JUSTICE</b>	<b>356,926.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>181,298.00</b>	<b>175,628.00</b>
<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS:</b>				
SAPULPA CLINIC-ICDBG	766,271.00	0.00	0.00	766,271.00
MUSKOGEE TRAVEL PLAZA	749,115.00	0.00	421,640.00	327,475.00
TRAVEL PLAZA ENTERPRISE	0.00	0.00	520,427.00	(520,427.00)
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>1,515,386.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>942,067.00</b>	<b>573,319.00</b>
<b>ENTERPRISE FUND:</b>				
MUSKOGEE OFFICE BLDG	288,627.00	3,200.00	402,735.00	(117,308.00)
TRIBAL AGRICULTURE PROG	9,483.00	0.00	5,128.00	4,355.00
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	318,756.00	0.00	156,822.00	161,934.00
<b>TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND</b>	<b>616,866.00</b>	<b>3,200.00</b>	<b>564,685.00</b>	<b>48,981.00</b>
<b>TRUST &amp; AGENCY FUND:</b>				
C.N. TAXES & FRINGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C.N. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	0.00	0.00	7,953.00	(7,953.00)
<b>TOTAL TRUST &amp; AGENCY FUND</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,953.00</b>	<b>(7,953.00)</b>
<b>INTERNAL SERVICE:</b>				
ROAD FORCE ACCOUNT	810,106.00	0.00	401,286.00	408,820.00
TRIBAL- REAL PROP & FAC.	1,769,679.00	14,031.00	1,656,317.00	99,331.00
TRIBAL- PROPERTY & SUPPLY	76,356.00	0.00	88,838.00	(12,482.00)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	92,033.00	0.00	61,019.00	31,014.00
SELF-INSURED HLTH FUND	0.00	0.00	2,349,644.00	(2,349,644.00)
<b>TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE</b>	<b>2,748,174.00</b>	<b>14,031.00</b>	<b>4,557,104.00</b>	<b>(1,822,961.00)</b>
<b>SCHOLARSHIPS:</b>				
C.N. FOUND. SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	0.00	3,488.00	(3,488.00)
<b>TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,488.00</b>	<b>(3,488.00)</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>109,260,167.00</b>	<b>9,940,822.00</b>	<b>52,404,998.00</b>	<b>46,914,347.00</b>